every year. There are already several trained men in the department. It is hoped that, within a few years, the department would have a thoroughly trained and capable staff of officers and subordinates.

Public Works.

34. Agencies expending.—The outlay on Public Works was, as usual, incurred partly through the agency of the Chief Engineer and partly through the agency of the Maramath department, the latter being under the control of the Peishkars. The expenditure incurred by the Chief Engineer during the year was Rs. 17,24,988 and that incurred through the Peishkars was Rs. 2,91,653. The latter amount includes a sum of Rs. 40,447, being the expenditure on the establishments maintained at the Palaces and other Sirkar buildings in the charge of the Peishkars. This expenditure used in previous years to be debited to the head of "Science, Art and other Minor departments". From the year 1083, however, it has been resolved to show this expenditure against the Maramath department. Excluding this sum of Rs. 40,447, the actual Maramath expenditure of the year, *i. e.*, the expenditure on Maramath works, was Rs. 2,51,206, as against Rs. 2,49,145 in the previous year.

35. The Kodayar Project.—Out of the outlay incurred through the Chief Engineer during the year, a sum of Rs. 4,35,929 was the capital expenditure on the Kodayar project works. The aggregate capital outlay on these works rose from Rs. 44,78,250 on the last day of 1082 to Rs. 49,14,179 on the last day of 1083. I quote below from the Chief Engineer's report on the Kodayar:—"The principal work in progress was the Thovala channel. The first section from the 1st to the 9th mile is well advanced, earthwork being finished and most of the masonry and rockcutting. The headworks are well advanced and good progress has been made on the syphon main at Tadaviar. Towards the end of the year, the second section was begun, and though the progress made is not up to the sanguine expectations formed when the contract was let, it is, nevertheless, considering the circumstances, good. For one reason or another, the department was not able to concentrate a sufficient staff on this section at the commencement, and later on, an out-break of cholera dispersed the labour. These difficulties were overcome, and towards the end of the year the output of work was exceptionally good.

"On the Thiruvidancode and Eraniel branch channels, brick-lining was finished and water was let down in June. There were some small slips and breaches, but these were repaired without difficulty and did not affect the supply. This was a year of drought and the crop on all lands commanded by these channels was undoubtedly saved.

"On the Anandanar extension, the main channel and the two branches were completed and the improvements to the Ananthenkulamkal were fully carried out.

"The investigation of new land under the first few miles of the Left Bank Channel was completed and estimates for distribution channels were submitted and sanctioned. The Engineers are now waiting for land acquisition.

"Of minor schemes under the Kodayar, the Alampara has been completed and the land has already been put under paddy. Six other minor schemes at the lower end of the N. P. Channel have also been investigated and estimated for.

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These will bring over 909 acres under irrigation, and are likely to be highly profitable. Several have already been sanctioned for execution in 1084. Six more are under investigation.

"Investigation of the Erattakarakal extension was in hand during the year and the results so far are favourable.

"The water distribution has been in the hands of the department, and notwithstanding great shortage of local rain and partial failure of the south-west monsoon, all the land under the Kodayar Project, for which channels are finished, was supplied with Kodayar water and the crops were brought to maturity.

"The Dam and the Head Works and the Left Bank Channel are in good order. The brick-lining has stood well.

"The irrigation channels have been generally well maintained.

"A small scouring sluice was built into the Puthen dam and has proved very useful in scouring out sand from the river bed."

36. The Kodayar Irrigation Cess.—Speaking in regard to the irrigation cess proposed to be charged on lands benefited by the Kodayar Project, I said to the Assembly last year that a special officer was then investigating the question, that after his report was received, I would visit the area concerned and hear what the ryots had to say before final orders were passed by Government. Agreeably to that promise, I visited the southern taluks and inspected large areas commanded by the Kodayar Project. I also held conferences with the ryots at Padmanabhapuram and Nagercoil. After a very careful consideration of the whole question, His Highness' Government resolved to impose a uniform irrigation cess of one rupee per acre on all registered *wet* lands commanded by the Kodayar system in the four taluks of Tovala, Agastisvaram, Eraniel and Kalkulam, irrespective of the tenures of the lands and their settlement land assessments, with effect from 1085. It was also resolved that inam lands and lands free from the payment of land tax shall pay the cess as much as other lands.

The rates of irrigation cess, to be imposed on the registered *dry (and garden)* lands, already converted into wet or likely to be so converted on account of the water supply now afforded, were also fixed.

The disposal of the waste lands on either side of the L. B. Channel and of the tank-beds was considered and instructions were laid down in regard to them. A forecast of the probable revenue which would accrue from the Kodayar Project when the above orders come into full operation, was made. A return of over 3 per cent on the capital outlay is expected.

37. Communications in North Travancore.—I mentioned to the Assembly last session that His Highness' Government were aware that the state of communications in North Travancore compared unfavourably with that in the South, but I added that, in the then state of the public finances and with the Kodayar works on hand, it was not possible to spend much on new works anywhere. We are however now making such rapid progress with the several channels connected with the Kodayar scheme that we are sanguine that the capital expenditure on the works would

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